Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 /062 W

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO USDOCONORTH KOLSAS NORWAY

USMISSION BERLIN

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

USNMR SHAPE

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5869

USICA WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USNATO

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USICA

FOR PAOS AND POLADS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:

SUBJ: US SPONSORED DEFENSE PERSPECTIVES TOUR FOR NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS (APRIL 17-21)

REF: OSLO 1566

1. THE EMBASSY'S DEFENSE PERSPECTIVES TOUR FOR FOUR NORWE-GIAN PARLIAMENTARIEANS WAS UNIFORMLY EXCELLENT. THE MIX OF NATO, SHAPE, CCD AND SALT BRIEFINGS WAS JUST THE RIGHT BALANCE OF THE REALITIES OF MILITARY BALANCE AND THE VERY REAL EFFORTS UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE US IN THEFIELD OF NUCLEAR ARMS LIMITATIONS, A SUBJECT VERY DEARTO NORWEGIANS.

2. TOUR PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED THREE NEW MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT, AND ONE SENIOR LEGISLATOR. TWO WERE LABOR PARTY, ONE CONSERVATIVE, AND ONE CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY. THE GROUP ISNOW CONSIDERABLY

MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE OF AND SYMPATHETIC TOWARDS NATO AND DEFENSE SPENDING-RELATED ISSUES.

- 3. THE AFNORTH BRIEFING WITH GENERAL RYG AND HIS STAFF WAS AN EXCELLENT BEGINNING AND EFFECTIVELY SET THE SCHEMATIC FRAMEWORK FOR MORE SPECIFIC BRIEFINGS TO FOLLOW ELSEWHERE. A GENERAL ORIENTATION SESSION AT THE NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND A LUNCHEON DISCUSSION WITH NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY EXPERT ON DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS PROVIDED AN EXCELLENT FOUNDATION.
- 4. THE BERLINX PROGRAM MADE A GREAT IMPACT ON THE GROUP, PARTICULARLY THE STARK CONTRASTS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST BERLIN, AND THE BERLIN WALL. THE LUNCHEON WITH FRG REPRESENTATIVES WAS EXCELLENT AND THE ACCOMPANYING BRIEFING INFORMATIVE. SUGGEST FUTURE TOUR INCLUDE VISIT TO EAST BERLIN WITH LUNCHEON AND CALLS ON THE NORWEGIAN EMBASSY THERE.
- 5. THE TOUR OF THE EAST-WEST GERMAN GORDER AT FULDA WAS VERY IMPRESSIVE. THE BRIEFINGS PROVIDED BY THE 11TH ARMORED CAVALRY WERE TAILED AND SPECIFIC. FOLLOWED BY A PERSONAL INSPECTION OF THE BORDER AT A BORDER OP, AND FIRST HAND INVESTIGATION OF THE NATURE OF THE EAST GERMAN BORDER FORTIFICATIONS, UNCLASSIFIED

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CLEARLY DESIGNED TO KEEP THE EAST GERMANS IN RATHER THAN WESTERNERS OUT, ILLUSTRATED THE POLITICAL REALITIES AS PERHAPS NOTHING ELSE COULD HAVE. THE FACT THAT WE ARRIVED DURING AN UNSCHEDULED OPERATIONAL ALERT DISRUPTED SOME PLANNED ACTIVITIES, BUT GREATLY INCREASED THE SENSE OF EXCITEMENT AND IMMEDIACY OF THE VISIT.

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6. BRIEFINGS AT CCD DELEGATION AND SALT DELEGATIONS IN GENEVA WERE EXCELLENT AND MUCH APPRECIATED BY THE GROUP. PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE NORWEGIAN DEDICATION TO NUCLEAR ARMS LIMITATION, SUCH A DETAILED BRIEFING ON THE U.S. ROLE IN BOTH NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL ARMS LIMITATION ACTIVITIES WAS REASSURING TO THE PARLIAMENTARIANS, AND BALANCED OUT WHAT MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE SEEMED TO THIS GROUP A TOPHEAVY MILITARY APPROACH TO THE TOUR.

7. THE BRUSSELS NATO BRIEFINGS PROVIDED BY THE NOR-UNCLASSIFIED

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WEGIAN DELEGATION WERE ESPECIALLY WELL RECEIVED, PROVIDING AS IT DID AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE GROUP TO REALLY TAKE A MORE ACTIVE AND QUESTIONING ROLE IN THE BRIEFINGS IN A LANGUAGE IN WHICH OF COURSE THEY ARE MORE COMFORTABLE. GENERAL ZEINER GUNDERSEN, CHAIRMAN OF NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE, GAVE AN EXCELLENT AND COMPREHENSIVE BRIEFING. SO COMPREHENSIVE, BALANCED AND POSITIVE WAS HIS PRESENTATION, THAT MOST MEMBERS OF THE GROUP AGREE THAT IT WAS ONE OF THE HIGH POINTS OF THE TOUR.

8. SHAPE BRIEFINGS BY GENERAL ALLEN AND HIS STAFF WERE ALSO EXCELLENT AND WIDE RANGING. THE GROUP PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS THE WHOLE SPECTRUM OF QUESTIONS INCLUDING NATO, SALT AND MBFR QUESTIONS. THEY WERE ALSO MUCH IMPRESSED BY HIS APPRECIATION OF NON-MILITARY DEMANDS ON FINITE RESOURCES, AND WERE REASSURED BY HIS BALANCED APPROACH.

9. AT THE TOUR'S CONCLUSION ALL MEMBERS OF THE GROUP EXPRESSED THEIR SATISFACTION WITH THE TOUR, AND EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN FOLLOW-UP MATERIALS AS A BACK UP TO SOME OF THE NEW SUBJECTS COVERED IN THE BRIEFINGS. ALL MEMBERS EXPRESSED THEIR FEELINGS IN TERMS OF A GREATER AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE GREAT DIFFICULTIES AND COMPLEXITIES OF BOTH DEFENSE AND DISARMAMEENT ISSUES. IN SHORT, THEY HAVE RETURNED A BETTER-INFORMED GROUP THAN WHEN THEY LEFT.

10. WE WISH TO EXTEND OUR SINCERE THANKS TO ALL OF THOSE WHOSE EFFORTS MADE THIS TOUR SUCH A COM-UNCLASSIFIED

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PLETE SUCCESS.
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